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BAHAMIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF SPINY LOBSTER

1. AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, IT IS FELT THAT A NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC MUST BE MADE CONCERNING THE NEW BAHAMIAN LAW DECLARING THE SPINY LOBSTER A CREATURE OF THEIR CONTINENTAL SHELF.
2. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUGGESTED NOTICE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE EVENT THE LAW IS ENFORCED EFFECTIVE 1 AUG 75:

NOTICE TO SPINY LOBSTER FISHERMEN

ON JULY 9 1975 THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS DECLARED THE SPINY LOBSTER A CREATURE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF UNDER A NEW LAW. THIS MEANS THAT U.S. FISHERMEN CANNOT FISH FOR SPINY LOBSTERS ON ANY OF THE BAHAMIAN BANKS OR IN WATERS NEAR ANY BAHAMA ISLANDS LESS THAN 100 FATHOMS DEEP.

FISHERMEN CAN EXPECT TO BE STOPPED AND BOARDED BY BAHAMIAN POLICE PATROLS IN ANY AREAS OF THE BAHAMAS IF THEIR VESSEL ARE EQUIPPED TO CATCH LOBSTERS. YOU MAY BE STOPPED AND BOARDED EVEN IF YOUR FISHING GEAR IS ON DECK AND YOU ARE UNDERWAY IN WATERS OVER THE BAHAMIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF: INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF THE 12 MILE LIMIT. IF YOU HAVE LOBSTERS ABOARD, YOU CAN EXPECT TO BE ARRESTED. IF YOU RESIST ARREST, YOU CAN EXPECT FORCE TO BE USED

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INST YOU.

THE NEW BAHAMIAN LAW IS VERY MUCH LIKE A UNITED STATES LAW THAT PROTECTS CERTAIN AMERICAN LOBSTERS FROM FOREIGN FISHERMEN.

THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD NOT EXPECT HELP FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IF YOU GO TO THE BAHAMAS TO CATCH LOBSTERS. YOUR GOVERNMENT IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BAHAMAS TO ALLOW U.S. FISHERMEN TO CONTINUE FISHING FOR LOBSTERS ON THE BAHAMAS BANKS. TALKS ARE NOW TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

FISHERMEN CAN HELP THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN OBTAINING A FISHING AGREEMENT WITH THE BAHAMAS BY NOT CAUSING TROUBLE WITH THE BAHAMIAN POLICE AND BAHAMIAN FISHERMEN. THE BEST WAY TO AVOID TROUBLE IS NOT TO FISH FOR LOBSTER IN BAHAMIAN WATERS AT THIS TIME. YOU SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT IF YOU COMMIT A VIOLENT ACT AGAINST ANYONE OR ANY VESSEL YOU CAN EXPECT TO BE SEVERLY PUNISHED UNDER UNITED STATES LAWS.

3. IN THE EVENT THAT GOB AGREES TO A MORATORIUM ON ENFORCING THE NEW LAW, IT IS CONSIDERED EQUALLY NECESSARY TO GIVE NOTICE TO THE FISHERMEN CONCERNED. WITH THIS POSSIBILITY IN MIND, THE FOLLOWING NOTICE IS SUGGESTED:

NOTICE TO SPINY LOBSTER FISHERMEN

ON JULY 9 1975 THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS DECLARED THE SPINY LOBSTER A CREATURE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF UNDER A NEW LAW. THIS MEANS THAT WHEN THEY START ENFORCING THIS NEW LAW, U.S. FISHERMEN CANNOT FISH FOR SPINY LOBSTERS ON ANY OF THE BAHAMA BANKS OR IN WATERS NEAR ANY BAHAMA ISLANDS LESS THAN 100 FATHOMS DEEP. THE NEW BAHAMIAN LAW IS VERY MUCH LIKE A UNITED STATES LAW THAT PROTECTS CERTAIN AMERICAN LOBSTERS FROM FOREIGN FISHERMEN.

YOUR GOVERNMENT IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BAHAMAS TO ALLOW U.S. FISHERMEN TO CONTINUE FISHING FOR LOBSTERS ON THE BAHAMA BANKS. TALKS ARE NOW TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS HAS AGREED NOT TO ENFORCE THE NEW LAW WHILE THESE TALKS ARE GOING ON, SO FISHERMEN CAN CONTINUE TO FISH AS USUAL COMMENCING 1 AUGUST.

FISHERMEN CAN HELP THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN OBTAINING A FISHING AGREEMENT WITH THE BAHAMAS BY NOT CAUSING TROUBLE WITH THE BAHAMIAN POLICE AND BAHAMIAN FISHERMEN. THE BEST WAY TO AVOID TROUBLE IS NOT TO FISH WITHIN THE 12 MILE FISHING AREA OF THE BAHAMA ISLAND. YOU SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT IF YOU
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COMMIT A VIOLENT ACT AGAINST ANYONE OR ANY VESSEL YOU CAN EXPECT TO BE SEVERELY PUNISHED UNDER UNITED STATES LAWS.

4. THESE NOTICES, PREPARED WITH COORDINATION OF LOCAL NMFS OFFICIALS, WOULD BE PRINTED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH AND DISSEMINATED BY ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

A. SPINY LOBSTER ADVISORY SERVICE. THIS IS A COMMITTEE FORMED DURING THE MEETING HELD ON 23 OCT 74 AT THE NMFS FACILITIES ON VIRGINIA KEY.

B. PERSONAL CANVASS OF FISHERMEN ON THE MIAMI RIVER BY SPANISH SPEAKING AGENTS, BOTH NMFS AND COAST GUARD.

C. NOTICE TO MARINERS.

D. NMFS MARKET NEWS REPORT.

E. JOINT NMFS/CG NEWS RELEASE.

F. ALSO TO BE CONSIDERED WOULD BE A MEETING, TO BE ARRANGED BY NMFS, SIMILAR TO THE 23 OCT 74 MEETING WITH PARTICIPATION BY THE FISHERMEN, FISH PROCESSING COMPANIES, NMFS, COAST GUARD, AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES.

5. THE DISTRICT COMMANDER WILL ADVISE THE LATEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR PUBLISHING EITHER NOTICE.

6. YOUR CONCURRENCE AND APPROVAL IS REQUESTED ASAP. UNQTE KISSINGER

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